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SUBJECT: GERMANY TO RAISE CONCERNS DURING IRAN UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW SESSION

REF: STATE 7242

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor George Glass for reasons 1.
5 (b/d).

11. (C) Summary: Poloffs met with MFA Iran Desk Thomas Henzschel and MFA Human Rights Office Georg Klussmann February 4 to discuss Germany's approach to the upcoming February 15 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Iran in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) (reftel points were delivered January 26 to both offices). Both appreciated reftel points and said it matched their thinking. Klussmann agreed that the UPR is a "valuable tool" to discuss the "deteriorating situation" in Iran. They explained that the EU had decided to coordinate its approach on Iran at the HRC UPR in order to best make use of what they said would be the three-minute slot allotted each speaker. All reftel points, they said, will be raised by member EU states. In addition, the EU will raise an objection to the death penalty. The MFA will dispatch its Federal Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid Guenter Nooke to lead the German delegation to Geneva and speak before the HRC. Henzschel also noted that the EU is considering whether to call for a special session of the HRC on Iran. End summary.

12. (C) Henzschel and Klussmann said Germany had focused its written points on the topics of: religious freedom; trafficking in women and girls; ongoing investigations into regime violence post June 12, 2009; discrimination against minorities, Iran's noncooperation with UN Special Procedures, and the death penalty. They said these topics should also track Nooke's message. Henzschel noted that the Iranian government was very sensitive to criticism of its human rights policies, and that sending a strong message during the UPR was particularly important.

13. (C) When asked why they do not plan to raise all reftel topics, they said that the EU had decided to "burden share" so as to maximize each country's three-minute intervention in such a way as to make a more effective presentation and ensure all concerns are covered. Both officials said their colleagues in Geneva were aware of the logistical problem of getting Germany on the list of speakers. They referred to Cuba's success last year in sending all of its interns to wait overnight so as to list only friendly countries on the first-come-first-serve speakers list. Henzschel said the EU countries in Geneva were trying to come up with strategies to ensure they all make it onto the speakers list.
HRC Special Iran Session?

14. (C) Henzschel noted that the EU had discussed whether or not to call for a special session on Iran within the HRC. However, for tactical reasons, they have not yet decided to call for one. They are concerned that they might not have enough votes for a special session, and even if they do, they are also concerned that such a situation could backfire, as was the case with Sri Lanka in the past. Klussmann explained that during the special session on Sri Lanka, the membership of the HRC was such that it turned into a session praising Sri Lanka instead of criticizing it. The EU has decided to wait until after the UPR on February 15 to make its final

decision on calling for a special session.
Murphy